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*Comparative Free Government.* By JESSE MACY and JOHN W. GANNAWAY. New York: Macmillan, 1915. 8vo, pp. xviii+754. \$2.25.

"The new era involves a new interpretation of history." The governmental machinery of modern nations in America and Western Europe is regarded as a means of giving expression to men's striving for freedom. This ideal is government by common consent, and the outward forms are regarded as the instruments by which this ideal is to be realized. One would expect a treatise on comparative government woven around this theme to be very interesting and fruitful; and this book will measure up to the expectations of a fairly tolerant reader, in spite of the fact that, at times, the theme seems to be lost in the descriptive analysis. One sees how a measure of free government may be achieved by a variety of different forms, and that "democracy is not a form or method" any more "than religion is a ritual or a ceremony."

A consideration of the government of the United States takes up the first half of the book. Part II is devoted to a study of the free governments of Europe, England, France, Germany, and Switzerland; and Part III comprises about fifty pages given to a discussion of democracy in the smaller states of Europe and the A.B.C. republics of South America. Rather an extended description is given of the legislative, judicial, and executive machinery of the American Union, together with an account of the political parties, their organization, and function. Throughout the book an effort is made to show how the mechanism performs its work of giving expression to the will of the people. In the less detailed treatment of the European governments, special care is taken to point out similarities and contrasts, as regards both the means adopted and the results achieved. Though in some countries—Germany, for example—the evolution toward free government is not far advanced, yet the authors have supreme faith in its ultimate realization. This judgment, expressed after the outbreak of anarchy in Europe, ought to be reassuring to those who have been depressed by political pessimists.

Furthermore, this comparative study of government goes to the historical roots of present institutions. It is shown that democracy is everywhere a thing of slow growth, and not a creature of paper constitutions. In England and Switzerland, where free government is farthest advanced, democracy is founded upon a long experience of the people in local self-government and upon adequate democratic traditions. The weakness of the South American republics is due to a lack of experience in the processes of self-government, and, until this deficiency is remedied by more adequate political education, there is little hope for free government in South America.

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*Russian Sociology. A Contribution to the History of Sociological Thought and Theory.* By JULIUS F. HECKER, PH.D. New York: Columbia University Press, 1915. Pp. 309. \$2.50.

This study aims to show that "although long-suffering and slow to wrath, the people of Russia have risen from time to time, demanding the rights and

possessions of which they have been robbed by the predatory interests which always, directly or indirectly, have associated themselves with Russian autocracy. In these struggles certain classes of the population have furnished the leaders and have given initiative to movements which have had for their purpose the abolition of autocratic control and the betterment of social and economic conditions for the common people. The leaders of these movements have sought to develop their programs of action and give to them rational justification by the aid of philosophy and the social sciences. This tendency has been directly responsible for the rise and development of most of Russian sociology. . . . Its theories appear to be related to the various movements we have described, and they reflect the ideologies of both the social-political groups in power and those of the opposition." Dr. Hecker analyzes both of these lines of theory. He begins with a critical statement of the so-called pan-Slavists and their opponents, the Westerners, proceeds to the individualism-subjectivism headed by Lavrov, Michalovsky, and Youzhakov, shows the reaction from that to the monistic-positivistic-materialistic attitude—specifically in its Marxian garb—and finally discusses the present-day tendency as exemplified in the historical geneticism of Kovalevsky. There is also a chapter on the Franco-Russian sociologists, Novicov and De Roberty. Speaking of the contribution of Russian sociologists to the science in general, Dr. Hecker concludes that ". . . most of their good ideas have remained foreign to sociologists generally, and have since been wrought out independently by West-European and American sociologists in a much more systematic way than by the earlier and unknown Russians." The book is an interesting and valuable study of an aspect of the intellectual development of modern Russia.

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*Reconstruction in Georgia.* By C. MILDRED THOMPSON. (Columbia University Studies, LXIV, No. 1.) New York: Longmans, Green, & Co., 1915. 8vo, pp. 401. \$3.00.

The period of reconstruction in Georgia, from 1865 to 1872, witnessed a great threefold transformation which was the direct result of the emancipation of the negro.

Perhaps the greatest problem which confronted the people of Georgia immediately after the war was that of labor. The negro assumed an air of false pride and generally became very overbearing in many of his demands for economic freedom. The result was inevitable: the planters were forced into subservency and the freedman obtained his economic freedom. The wastefulness of slave labor, which had been so common before the war, was now of necessity eliminated, causing agriculture to be shifted to an intensive basis.

The negro was put on a new social footing by his emancipation. He began to assume an attitude of responsibility for his family life, which hitherto had been of a very low standard. His being put on an equal footing with the poor